

## A Letter of Discourse

Throughout history, communication has evolved alongside humanity. While communication changes with the people who use it, the underlying explanation is static. Human beings utilize communication to express invisible thoughts and feelings into concrete form in order to convey an expressed meaning. In Emily Dickinson's poem, "1035," the structure of the poem as a letter communicates the urgency and importance of the message.

With more rapid forms of communication, mail correspondence has become almost obsolete. However, with the invention of faster communication and informal post, handwritten mail has gained significance. The traditional Hollywood films portray a man, returning from work, shifting through the mail. He quietly separates the 'junk' mail from important bills and documents, and, upon recognition of a hand written letter or post card, pauses. He checks for the identity of the sender and proceeds with interest to read the inscribed message. The letter may be positive or negative, a death notice or birthday card; however, the thought that someone had taken the time to personally sit down and write the message pleases the man. He sits and contemplates the letter's significance, decides a course of action, and sets out to reply. In his mind, the personal endowment of a letter requires some form of acknowledgement.

"Bee! I'm expecting you! / Was saying Yesterday/ . . . You'll get my Letter by / The seventeenth; Reply / Or better, be with me - / Yours, Fly" (1-2, 9-12). One would believe that Bee, upon receiving the letter from Fly, would either one, return posthaste or reply with reason for his delay. Fly writes with personal bearing towards his acquaintance. This alludes to the idea that Fly is concerned over Bee's absence.

Dickinson is trying to convey two important ideas from the context and structure of the poem. Nature is incomplete without all of its creatures present. Fly, as a symbol for unity

(Chevalier and Gheerbrandt 396), takes the initiative, contacting Bee. Although it is uncertain as to the specific work of which Bee is to accomplish, human nature compares the symbolic meaning of a bee's job making honey to "work of the masses." "Birds, mostly back –" (7) calls for the image of bird's migration back to their homeland in spring. This refers to the archetypal rebirth, the emergence from dark into light. This concerns Fly, as Bee has not yet emerged from the Darkness.

The second important idea refers to the symbolic nature of Bee. Bees are "a symbol of the soul," or "a symbol of royalty" (Chevalier and Gheerbrandt 79). Either definition explains the natural hierarchy particular to them in nature. Their hives follow hierarchical structure as well. This supports Fly's concern that without Bee, there is a large void, which Fly cannot fill. Therefore, Fly writes Bee with concern and personal implication.

A letter's importance is measured not only by context of the message it contains, but also, by the mode by which it is prepared. Although poetry, in some historic cultures, is considered the divine inspiration of the gods, poetry is also a mode of communication often overlooked in society. A poetic letter gains increasing significance on several levels. If the time to write a personal message is taken, then one should be pleased; however, if the time is taken to write a letter in poetry, then one should be ecstatic, for it shows deep personal meditation into the message that which is written.

### Works Cited

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